

HERE AND THERE IN LEGISLATURE

Appropriation Bill Comes from Committee and Will Be Taken Up To-Morrow

After many trials and tribulations the general appropriation bill, providing revenues for the various State institutions and departments of government for the next two fiscal years, has emerged a second time from the House Committee on Finance and will be taken up tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock to-morrow. This means scores of amendments, and very debates upon them, and the bill will be considered of this measure for at least a week or more.

The bill was reported and made a special order for last week, but it was found that it went too near the danger line of emptying the treasury. Thereafter, it was reworked and put through a thorough pruning process. A little was taken off here and a little there, so as to leave a margin for each of the two fiscal years, of something like \$150,000 for emergency purposes. The estimated revenues for the next two years are about \$5,000,000 each, and the appropriations will fall about \$150,000 behind this sum for each year.

The aggregate appropriation carried in the pending bill is in excess of that of two years ago, though not by any very heavy amount. The increases made are largely to schools, prisons and roads, for all of which there is constant and widespread public clamor. The total amount of the bill is \$5,000,000 additional, \$500,000 of which goes to high and \$450,000 to common schools. Colonel James L. Catton, of Alexandria, who is the only lawyer on the Finance Committee, has been constantly in attendance since the revision has been in progress, and has, therefore, not been able to sit at any of the sessions of the Committee for Courts of Justice in the consideration of the Blackstone matter.

The corridors of the Capitol are crowded daily with State officials, clerks, school teachers, judges, public institutions and others, who desire that their interests shall not suffer in the general shuffle-up, when the bill is taken up. The Finance Committee of Conference, there have been many salary increases, and most of the public institutions have gotten more money to spend. The bill, however, will be made, however, before the end comes, and the lobbying will not cease until the Finance Committee reports to the House.

Colonel A. M. Bowman, chairman of the House Finance Committee, who will have charge of the bill on the floor, is the lower house, and is otherwise preparing for the anticipated bombardment of the measure by his colleagues.

Many Willing to Do It.
The bill, which has been in commission about to be taken by the Williams bill to codify the laws of the State, is growing warm and ardent candidates and lobbyists are flocking to the Capitol daily to lobby for votes.

Speaker Richard Evelyn Byrd announces the candidacy of his friend, Judge John W. Harrison, of Winchester. The speaker declares that Judge Harrison is an admirer of the State, and that his position, and that his prospects are very bright. He is a lawyer of recognized ability, was long a member of the State Bar, and is a candidate in the Constitutional Convention, and is now judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit.

Hon. Armistead C. Gordon, of Staunton, is here working for his partner, Mr. Wm. Patrick, who is also a candidate, and who is said to be eminently qualified for the work.

There are about a dozen other applicants for the position.

Duties of Board Defined.
The Senate Committee on General Laws yesterday afternoon referred to a subcommittee, composed of Messrs. L. S. Lee, of Staunton, and J. W. Harrison, of Winchester, the bill, which has been passed by the House, and makes the Board practically an advisory body.

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Crash!

Prices are being knocked skyward, for we must have ROOM.

We've knocked off a third, and in some instances, a half. This is Opportunity's knock. Heed it!

Top O'Coats and Raincoats, \$25.00 and \$27.50 grades, \$15.75.

English Walking Suits, \$27.50 and \$30 grades, \$20.

Jacobs & Levy

Street R. R. Uniform Suits that sold up to \$15, now \$10.

now, and action, action, will be the cry.

SESSIONS OF TWO HOUSES

Senate Kills Folkes Mining Tax Bill. Many Other Matters.

The House of Delegates was called to order promptly at 10 o'clock, with Speaker Byrd presiding. The session was opened with prayer by the Rev. David M. Ramsey, D. D., of the Grace Street Baptist Church.

The pension bill was reported from the Senate as amended by that body. The House refused to concur in the amendments, and so informed the Senate, which later communicated with the House, asking for a conference on the subject.

The Finance Committee reported favorably the appropriation bill, for expenses, and to the investigation of charges preferred against Judge J. W. G. Blackstone. The general appropriation bill was also reported favorably from the Finance Committee, and on motion of Delegate Bowman, chairman of that committee, was set as a special order for to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

A great number of measures originating on both sides were passed, and the calendar was cleared of bills on their third reading, with the exception of a few, which were passed by voice.

Captain Baker asked that House bill No. 310, which provides for the establishment of a tuberculosis hospital and carries about \$10,000 appropriation, be taken up under a suspension of the rules and passed. There was objection to this, and in order that some of the members may more thoroughly acquaint themselves with the merits of the bill, the matter went over until to-day.

Comparatively few members were present during the morning hour, and very often—as was the case on Saturday—the passage of bills was delayed in order to give time to the sergeant-at-arms to hunt up a sufficient number of delegates to get the required vote.

Some discussion arose over the Senate bill in relation to the collection of fees of the commissioners of revenue, and after many amendments had been offered the measure was recommitted.

Military Bill.
The matter which provoked the longest discussion of the day was the Senate military bill.

Delegate Cox offered an amendment setting aside a sum, not to exceed \$2,000, for each of the three artillery companies of the State, to be used for the purchase of uniforms and other necessities.

Mr. Cox said that probably it would, but he wanted to make sure that the sum would be large enough.

Delegate Speers offered an amendment reducing the amount of the general appropriation from 1-1/2 per cent. to 1 per cent. Messrs. Jennings, Montague, Craig, Cooke and others spoke against the amendments, both of which were defeated. The bill then passed by a vote of 53 to 25.

Delegate Wm. Harrison offered the bill introduced by him, providing for the erection of suitable buildings upon the grounds of the State Penitentiary for the better care and safekeeping of convicts, so dismissed. He said that about \$10,000 had been appropriated for a new guard house and other necessary improvements, and that he would not insist upon the passage of his bill, which carried a large appropriation.

Afternoon Session.
The afternoon session was not very interesting from the speaker's point of view, but a great deal of business was transacted in the way of advancing bills. Under a resolution offered by Judge Martin Williams, of Giles, only local or uncontested bills were considered, and when anything reached provoked discussion it was promptly passed by. Consequently the bills

ordered to their engrossment were not of general importance. The following bills were passed at the morning session:

Senate Bills.
To amend and re-enact an act entitled "An act to prevent the shipping, transportation or sale of partridges (or quail) or pheasants, killed, captured, or obtained in the counties of Carroll, Grayson and Patrick," approved March 28, 1902.

Authorizing the submission to legal voters of the city of Winchester of the question whether or not they will favor the issuance by said city of not more than \$25,000 of Town Trust improvement bonds, and to authorize the issuance by said city of not more than \$25,000 of said bonds if a majority of those voting vote in favor of such issuance.

To amend and re-enact sections 5, 10 and 11 of an act entitled "An act to amend and re-enact an act approved March 20, 1871, entitled an act to incorporate the town of Strasburg, in Shenandoah county," approved March 19, 1884.

To amend section 103 of an act approved February 28, 1896, entitled "An act to provide a new charter for the city of Roanoke."

To authorize and empower the board of supervisors of King and Queen county to appropriate and contribute money to the Confederate Monument Association of King and Queen county for the purpose of aiding the erection of a monument to the Confederate soldiers of said county.

To amend and re-enact section 1 of chapter 3, section 1 of chapter 5, and sections 1 and 5 of chapter 8 of an act approved March 3, 1895, entitled "An act to provide a new charter for the town of Berryville."

To amend and re-enact section 216 of the Code of Virginia, as heretofore amended, and to provide for the purchase and care of a permanent camp ground.

To amend and re-enact section 19 of the charter of the city of Richmond, as heretofore amended, in relation to the powers of the City Council; and to amend and re-enact section 61 of the said charter in relation to the duties of the City Engineer.

To amend the charter of the town of Lenoir, in the county of Fairfax, so as to conform the same to the general laws of this State for the government of cities and towns.

To permit the directors of the Western State Hospital to sell and dispose of a small tract of land belonging to said hospital.

To authorize the town of Berryville, Va., to borrow \$5,000 to pay off the floating indebtedness of said town.

To authorize the school board of Pleasant Grove magisterial district No. 3, of the county of Norfolk, to borrow money for the purpose of school improvement in said district, and to issue bonds therefor, not exceeding \$5,000 in amount.

To amend and re-enact section 9 of an act entitled "An act to establish a State Highway Commission, to define its powers and duties; the term of office, salary and qualifications of the commissioner; to authorize the commissioner to call into consultation the professors of engineering in certain State institutions, and appropriating money to carry out the provisions of this act into effect," approved March 6, 1906.

To repeal an act entitled "An act to provide for the working, keeping in repair and letting out the public roads, bridges and ferries in Nansemond county," approved February 11, 1898.

Authorizing the submission to the legal voters of the city of Winchester of the question whether or not they will favor the issuance by said city of not more than \$10,000 of public school improvement bonds, and to authorize the issuance by said city of not more than \$10,000 of said bonds if a majority of those voting vote in favor of such issuance.

To authorize the submission to the legal voters of the city of Winchester of the question whether or not they will favor the issuance by said city of not more than \$50,000 of sewerage bonds, and to authorize the issuance by said city of not more than \$50,000 of said bonds if a majority of those voting vote in favor of such issuance.

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on the basis of 100 prisoners, nearly 4 cents a day for each prisoner.

In counties where there are fewer prisoners the increase is larger, the fees diminishing as the number of prisoners increases.

Another bill of this group increases the fees for summoning and empaneling a petit jury from \$1 to \$2, allows the same fees as the bill first mentioned and 40 cents a day for each juror, and 25 cents a day for each juror for each trial of a felony case.

The amounts allowed sheriffs and sergeants for keeping prisoners in jail per day, are as follows: Under five, 50 cents; over five and less than ten, 40 cents; over ten and less than twenty, 30 cents; over twenty and less than fifty, 25 cents; over fifty and less than one hundred, 23 cents; and over 100, 20 cents.

The other bill, which was taken up with this group, was Senate bill 127, of which Senator Sims was the patron, amending section 3028 of the Code. It allows attorneys the State Commonwealth, for each trial of a felony case, \$10 for each person tried and \$5 for each trial of a misdemeanor case. Senate bill 124, making merely consequential changes, was considered at the same time. The present law allows only \$10 for each felony case, though tried more than once, and allows fees in misdemeanor cases only in the event of conviction. Senator Chase offered amendments, which were adopted, increasing the amount to be paid attorneys for the Commonwealth in the counties of Buchanan and Dickinson to \$300 each, in the county of Edgecombe to \$450 and in the county of Tazewell to \$600.

All of these bills were passed, and will stand upon motions to reconsider to allow Senator Keenel, who was absent and who is chairman of the Finance Committee, an opportunity to discuss them.

The next matter on the calendar was Senate bill 120, amending section 2938 of the Code, relative to attachments for claims before justices of the peace not exceeding \$20. It was passed with only one or two dissenting votes.

Division Superintendents.
Senator Strode's bill, which is No. 150, relating to division superintendents of schools, was then taken up, and it provoked considerable discussion. It allows the counties to supplement the salaries which the State gives the superintendents, as the cities now have the right to do, a provision which, for some reason, has been heretofore denied to the counties. It also provides that in the establishment of school divisions the State Board of Education shall make them up so as to insure to each division superintendent a salary of not less than \$900 a year, except that in counties of less than 14,000 people the board is authorized to attach such city or county to some adjoining city or county so as to make up a division, the superintendent of which shall not receive less than \$900 a year. The bill also stipulates that the superintendents shall devote themselves to their duties full time, and that, unless the board may deem it for the benefit of the public school system to make exceptions of certain superintendents, the board is authorized in its discretion to exempt the divisions from the provisions of the bill.

After a number of questions and explanation the bill was passed by a vote of 28 to 10 in afternoon session.

The chair was then occupied until 4 o'clock, when a House bill providing a new road law for Fairfax county was passed. Many bills were passed because of objection to their consideration, and many were ordered to their engrossment.

The bill requiring railroad companies to secure freight claims for a period of sixty days from the time of application of the shipper, and for interstate shipments, under penalty of \$25, if the claim proves to be just, to be paid to the shipper, though the bill was without objection, caused considerable debate.

Senator Lassiter spoke earnestly for the bill, saying he had received more than 100 letters from shippers, and that except Senate bill 106 (which is Senator Mann's bill about hauling sawlogs), he had never received a letter from a shipper.

"That all is not to be mentioned again," said the Nottoway Senator solemnly.

The Senator from Petersburg gave instances which had been brought to the attention of the committee of great accumulations of claims in railroad offices in this city and elsewhere, and sometimes used as seats for typewriter girls.

Senator Hart attacked the bill vigorously, saying it contained the vicious principle of legislative privilege, and that it was a bill to give a premium upon rapacity, was unfair to the railroad, who were already in hot water, with their revenues being reduced and vexatious requirements being constantly made of them without objection, caused considerable debate.

Senator Lassiter explained that North and South Carolina had similar laws, and that he had secured consideration of their claims over those of Virginia.

Senator Holt, speaking as a wholesale grocer, said he had had much experience with the lawlessness of railroads in so settling freight claims.

Senator Gravatt spoke for the bill, but offered an amendment allowing the company to collect the penalty from the claimant where the claim proved to be fraudulent. This was accepted by Senator Lassiter.

The bill was then passed, Senator Hart alone voting against it.

The Senate by a vote of 13 to 17 decided against a night session, and adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock to-day.

Two Houses Damaged.
Two frame dwellings, the first at No. 518 North Monroe Street, were badly damaged by fire early to-day. A fire alarm was turned in and two companies responded. The fire was communicated from the first through the weather boarding to the second.

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SENSATION COMES IN SECTIONS ONLY